likely passenger carriage during 1997-98 as 16.02 million. However, in view of the actual carriage for the year 1996-97 and taking a growth rate of 12.5%, the actual figure is likely to come down to 13.2 million.

(b) The reasons for not achieving the cumulative targets as indicated above can be attributed to suspension of A-320 operations during the year 1989—92 leading to capacity shortage, unfavourable industrial relations during the year 1992—96 in Indian Airlines, shortage of Commanders & Co-pilots etc.

(c) The steps taken for liberalising the economy coupled with improved industrial relations in Indian Airlines and availability of additional capacity with private operators on domestic routes, is likely to help improve the figures of passenger carriage. However, the growth of aviation industry is also dependent upon the general economic growth in the country as well as on foreign tourist arrivals.

Genetically Engineered rabies vaccines to sterilize stray Dogs

530. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether genetically engineered rabies vaccines have been devised to sterilize stray dogs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure human safety before use of such vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) There is no vaccine which can sterilize dogs. Genetically engineered anti-rabies vaccine for veterinary use has been developed mainly by the US scientists to prevent rabies. This vaccine has been found to be effective as an oral bait in some countries. However, the possible adverse effects on human beings and other animals cannot be ruled out.

(c) An institutional mechanism is already in place to consider bio-safety aspects of recombinant products or genetically modified microbes product before commercial use. Any proposal for field trial of such products will require prior clearance.

भरूच (गुजरात) में विमानपत्तन स्थापित करने की मांग

531. श्री अहमद पटेल: क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

क्या यह सच है कि आम जनता, व्यापारियों, उद्यमियों और जन-प्रतिनिधियों ने भरूच (गुजरात) में विमानपत्तन स्थापित करने की मांग की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार लोगों की भावना का आदर करते हुए भरूच में एक विमानपत्तन स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री सी०एम० इब्राहिम): (क) और (ख) अंकलेश्वर इण्डस्ट्रीज एसोसिएशन और गुजरात नर्मदा वैली फर्टिलाइजर्स कम्पनी से अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए थे।

(ग) और (घ) जी, नहीं। बड़ोदरा विमानपत्तन पास में होने के कारण भरूच में विमानपत्तन बनाना अपेक्षित नहीं है।

Request for regular flights from Pune to Sharjah

532. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that flowers adorning homes, hotels and offices in Europe are being exported from Maharashtra;